

Spreading the Good News of the Coming Kingdom of God

Oct.-Nov. 2008

UNSHAKEABLE KINGDOM



*The Importance
of Family*

UNSHAKEABLE KINGDOM

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ABOUT THE COVER:

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY

Is the family unit something that just “evolved” through the various cultures through the ages? Or was it something that was specially designed, by our Creator, with a purpose in mind? If there is no special purpose, why does the Bible have so much to say about proper family relationships? This issue discusses the importance of family to the Plan of God . . . and how our understanding of family will be utilized throughout all eternity!

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A FANTASTIC FUTURE

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A MESSAGE TO YOUNG WOMEN

As you progress through life, what should you be preparing yourself for?



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THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY

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FROM THE PASTOR...

Just What Do You Mean, Family Values?



In today's political climate, many are talking about "family values." What do they mean when they use this term? Have you ever heard an explanation of what that means?

The only true definition of family values is found in your Bible. The Bible states without any hesitation the values of a successful family and how families should live to produce lives of joy and happiness. It defines the true values for the conduct of the family. I know that some may object to what is required of each member in the family, but it is not just me saying it—the Creator God demands it.

The leader of the family must treat his wife by emulating the conduct of Christ when He deals with the Church. How does Christ conduct Himself when he deals with His people? He does it by a deep spiritual love (Eph 5:25-29).

What is the wife's part in the family values that God desires? A wife should submit to that loving husband just as we would submit to Jesus Christ our lord and master (Eph 5:22-24). You will never hear that espoused in the "politically correct" society of today.

What about the children? Does God ask them to do something to fulfill their responsibilities in the family? Yes, it is everyone's job to make the family a happy and successful basis for our society. Children should add to, not take away from, the structure and peace that should exist in today's family (Eph 6:1-3).

When everyone in the family is doing his or her part, each will find a joy in life that surpasses mankind's deepest wishes. Each family, when added together, makes up a nation. Our leaders

should be not just talking family values but should be doing something to make these values a part of the society of this nation. Talk is cheap; action costs. But inaction costs even more.

When family values are nothing more than platitudes and God is left out of our government then the term becomes a cliché. No matter what happens around our homes or in our nation, we must strive as individuals to follow the way that leads to a happy and peaceful existence. That is the way taught by Almighty God who created mankind and the family unit. Someday, those who succeed will be part of the example for true family values, the Family of God (Eph 3:14-15).

Know assuredly that God wants you to be in His Family when He sends His Son, Jesus Christ back to this earth to set up His Kingdom. There are thousands of other facts about the family unit and the Family of God deep within your Bible. If you would like to know where to look and want more information on how to become a happy, peaceful member of your family and the Father's family, why don't you contact us? You will be surprised at what awaits you in the future. That is the Good News of the coming Kingdom of God!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald W. Laughland".

Ronald W. Laughland
Pastor



The Family: Why Is It So Important To God?

The Bible has many guidelines for husbands, wives, and building healthy family relationships. And who better to give such instructions than the One who created the family unit to start with? But why does family matter to God? The answer is tied directly to our ultimate destiny!

By Ronald W. Laughland

Today's families are under attack by Satan. These attacks are part of an effort to ultimately destroy our society.

Family is the basic unit of society. Destroy it, and the society becomes unraveled.

But why would Satan want to destroy society...and why is his anger specifically directed against the family unit?

That is a question that leads directly to the Good News of the coming Kingdom of God.

God defines the family

You might think that it is a stretch to tie the family and God's Kingdom together. But the two are inseparable in the plan of God.

The Bible defines the family as one man and one woman (Matt. 19:4). That truth is ignored by the

majority in our society today in an effort to be politically correct.

The true family is not comprised of what we see in today's society, where a man and a woman are living together with no real commitment to one another. Nor does God's definition of a family parallel today's societal definition where same-sex couples are a "family." Living in a purely physical union where each is just taking from the other ultimately produces unhappiness.

A family as defined by God is a union of a man and a woman committed to each other to give all they have in love, and to produce children that will grow into mature and happy family members (Mal. 2:14). The children produced from this sacred union are the reason why God designed the family. He

wants to have grandchildren whose lives will be in accordance with the law of God (Mal. 2:15).

There is a tremendous purpose for the earthly physical family. The physical family serves as an example of what the God Family will be like in the Kingdom of God. The Father will be the head of the family. Jesus Christ His Son will be spiritually married to the wife—the Church of God. Then, in the resurrection of the Father's called children will be billions of spiritual children who will compose the Family of God (Eph. 3:15).

Few know or understand their potential in life is to be children of God in the fullest sense. It is a truth hidden by Satan's lie by the world's so called doctrine of "born again"—a false doctrine which, the Bible tells us, blinds the world to

the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Matt. 13:13-15).

This magazine teaches the full truth of God, showing anyone who will read with open eyes and who will listen with spiritual ears given to them by God what is ahead for them in a future life. The Bible reveals the future life that is part of the great plan and design of the Father (II Cor. 4:4). It takes spiritual eyes and ears to learn and understand about this truth of God. It takes work and a desire to put forth effort to learn the truth of what God has in mind for all humanity.

Yet, most will not put forth any effort to learn the truth of God. It is so much easier to believe what you were taught and just follow possible false doctrine. The truth of God is right there in your Bible. You must have a discerning mind and be willing to challenge what you think you know about the family, to see for yourself whether the Bible teaches what you have heard from a man.

It takes a spiritual mind to see spiritual truth. God reveals His truth through the spirit in man where God's Spirit can reveal truth. (1 Cor. 2:6-16).

Let us look at what the Bible teaches about the family and the future life He has in mind for all humanity. Remember, that includes you!

Designed as a teaching tool

Few know that the Gospel is directly related to the calling of Abraham (Gal. 3:7-9). The Bible proclaims that the Gospel is about the families of this present age in

which all humanity will be blessed with the abundant life. That is because of Abraham's obedience to God (Gen. 12:1-3). That is the Good News of the coming Kingdom of God. It is not some ethereal, unreal goal for the future. It is a real tangible Kingdom to be set up on this earth.

The Bible is emphatic that the Gospel is about families that are to be blessed by the inheritance



given to father Abraham by faith. As the Bible states, "the meek shall inherit the earth" (Matt. 5:5). Do you really believe that, or is it just some nice adage from the ancient past?

Few recognize the family as the unit for teaching the right way of life. One of the important reasons God selected him to be a vital part of the path to salvation was because Abraham lived the way that brings blessings to all humankind. He did that by teaching the right way of life to his family, and eventually they could teach all families to learn the happy abundant life described by the Ten Commandments (Deut. 10:12-13).

If the Bible commands us how a family is to live, then it should show us the guidelines for the right way of life. Let us search the scripture for what we should do in our

daily lives to live God's way. Surely, a righteous God would not tell us we are to build our families and then not tell us how to construct our own homes so that they will stand forever.

God's family unit

The mainstay of the family is the father, just as the mainstay of the God family is the Father. It is, as we mentioned earlier in this article, the Family of God (Eph. 3:15). The family has its base on the only true foundation for anything in this world, Jesus Christ, the Rock of our salvation (Mat. 7:24-27).

The father of the earthly family is responsible to Jesus Christ to lead, guide and direct the family, both in the physical and spiritual realm. (I Cor. 11:3). This scripture shows that there is government in the home. A home can only be at peace when the father leads with a loving and firm hand in the right way (Eph. 5:25-29).

Today, in many homes, the control of the family is by the demands of the wife or the children. That is not a God-centered home built on Jesus Christ. The wife is to be submissive to a loving husband leading in the way of the Lord (Eph. 5:22-24). The children should be obedient as the father and mother teach them the lessons of life from the vast experience that they have accumulated over the years. This helps to guide the children through the pitfalls of life (Eph. 6:1-2).

The family must have one basic rule on how to live together. They must live by the rule that applies to all humankind in dealings with

(Continued on page 12)



THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES:

Looking Forward To A Fantastic Future

By Ronald W. Laughland

Jesus Christ instructed that we should show love toward others. Many believe that the law was nailed to the cross, to be replaced by this new law of love. But how does one attain this Godly love? Is it simply an emotion that can be worked up at will? The answer may come as a surprise!

One of the most interesting lessons that I learned from the example of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, the man whom God called as the leader of His end-time church, was his keeping of the holy days of God for seven years before he understood why he was doing it.

He knew that God commanded the weekly Sabbath, as well as the annual Sabbaths. He began keeping the Seventh Day as holy. But at some point, as he became more deeply converted, he realized that he must also keep all of God's annual Sabbaths.

He didn't understand their purpose at that point; he only knew

that God commanded them to be kept, and that he must obey God. The reason then became clear, after years of keeping them just as God commanded.

Have you ever proved what your church teaches about the world to come? Many commonly held beliefs are not supported by the Bible (Heb. 2:5). Have you taken the time to investigate what will happen to you and this world after you die?

Have you taken for granted what it will be like in your future? Maybe your beliefs about the future world have been taught to you by someone else. If so, have you checked for yourself to see whether

or not these things are true?

What does the Bible say about where you will spend eternity? The real answer from your Bible may astound you!

First, where will Christ be in that age to come? The Bible is very specific about His location and where the Temple of God will be located. It clearly says in Revelation 21 that the Temple with God the Father and Jesus Christ will be coming to this earth forever (Rev. 21:1-4). Is that what you were taught?

That one scripture should be eye opening to anyone who is sincere about his or her religious beliefs. There is a new world coming, and

almost nobody believes that. Why? It is because they do not believe Christ. They believe the common teachings about what Jesus said . . . but they have not looked at the scriptures for themselves (II Cor. 4:4).

Let us look at what the Bible says about our future. There is a bright day coming that will make this age look as bleak and evil as it is. Christ came to save us from an age that consists of a hatred that cannot be present in the Kingdom that is to come (Gal. 1:4). He will deliver us into a way of life that makes this age pale in contrast (Luke 18:30).

A yearly outline

How do we know this new age is an age of great happiness? We know because the holy days of God present a physical yearly outline of the Spiritual Plan of Almighty God.

Without keeping the annual Sabbaths, you cannot understand what God has in store for you. It is overwhelming, almost unbelievable, yet your Bible contains this fantastic truth from the Father. Read it for yourself!

God's Fall Festival Season

Since we recently celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles, I want to concentrate this article on the one Feast Season that reveals the joyous Millenium—the time when God reveals His plan to the entire world.

God uses the fall holy days to provide a yearly example of the type of world He originally in-

tended us to live in. Adam rejected this way of life when he sinned in the Garden of Eden. Since then, God has allowed six thousand years of Satan's rule to allow man to see the disaster of living his own way of life instead of God's way. The world we see today is the result of such choices.

The Millenium will be a one thousand year example of what life can be like under the rule of the



Laws of God. Life will be a joy with happiness, love and the way that produces truly abundant life.

God reveals the Holy Days in the book of Leviticus. They are not the feasts of Moses as some proclaim in an effort to avoid God's will. It plainly says whose feasts they are. God gave them to Moses to give to the nation of Israel.

Let's take a look at Leviticus 23, verses 1-2: "And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.' "

In Leviticus 23:39, you'll notice, God gave these days as Sabbaths. "Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you

shall keep the feast of the LORD for seven days; on the first day there shall be a Sabbath-rest, and on the eighth day a Sabbath-rest."

At this point, you might be saying to yourself that these days are commanded for the Jews. Not so! They are commanded for the Israelites—the Jews are only one of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Who are the Israelites today? You can write for our free booklet, "The United States in Prophecy" which will answer that question.

God revealed Spiritual Israel—the Church—in Gal. 6:17. The Sabbath was instrumented over a thousand years before there was anyone named Israel.

Christ made a startling statement in Mark 2:27-28: "And He said to them, 'The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.' " God created the Sabbath for humanity in order to show He knows His people and His people know Him (Ex. 31:12-17).

Jesus Christ kept the Feast of Tabernacles as an example for us (John 7:2-14). If we believe we are Christians, which means a follower of Christ, should we not do what Jesus did in His life on this earth?

These Feasts are important to a Christian who understands the Plan of God. They reveal the ultimate goal of all of humanity.

We look forward to the day when the Great Tribulation is over (Matt. 24:21). Next, the Feast of Trumpets points to the day when Jesus Christ returns (Rev 11:15-18). On

the Day of Atonement in fulfillment, God binds Satan in an uninhabited wilderness where he will be unable to intervene in the new world (Rev. 20:1-3). Satan's influence on those who have survived the Great Tribulation will be stopped, and the world will no longer be deceived (Matt. 24:22).

Then the Feast of Tabernacles represents the one thousand year period of rebuilding the devastated earth under the direction of the Saints made eternal (Isa. 51:3). This world will become a beautiful place of joy and singing (Isa. 52:9).

A righteous government

How will all these changes be made possible? There will a righteous government under the rule of Almighty God that will set comprehensive laws that will produce a Paradise here on earth (I Cor 15:24-25). This government of God will exist for eternity (Isa 9:6-7). God's government will change the way people will be led (Isa. 9:16).

The first job this government will perform will be to change the nature of man. Human Nature must be replaced by God's Nature for the Kingdom of God to be like the Paradise God intends. God will not live in the presence of sin. Sin must be conquered because sin is what brings unhappiness, misery and pain.

Read Hebrews 11:24-27. Moses led God's chosen people out of the land of Egypt, which represents this world today under the sway of Satan. They were in hard bondage under the Pharaoh, a Satan-like ruler. God led them out to a

new land, the Promised Land, which is the forerunner of the Kingdom of God.

It was a type of the good life in a land of plenty. Here was an opportunity for the Israelites to have a chance to make a new life—a new

The Millenium will give all mankind the opportunity to live without Satan's influence

life without the destroying influence of Pharaoh and in the analogy, Satan. The Millenium will give all of mankind this same opportunity.

A land under the laws of God would give everyone a full and productive life. It will be an age where man's nature will have the opportunity to seek God's nature, God's way that leads to life eternal. Those who are in the first resurrection will be Spirit Beings teaching the true way of life, the way of God's Law.

To be observed by everyone

Let us look in the book of Zechariah at what will be the status of the Feast of Tabernacles af-



ter the return of Jesus Christ to this earth. The prophet Zechariah starts with the time setting of this chapter in Zechariah 14:1: "Behold, the day of the LORD is coming . . ."

Christ will fight to stop the carnage created by Satan.

Verses 3 and 4 continue, "Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day, His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives . . ."

Notice also verse 5, which shows that the setting is the time when the Saints of God will be with Him as Spirit beings. "Thus the LORD my God will come, And all the saints with You."

Contrary to what many teach, the Feast of Tabernacles will be a required event after Jesus Christ returns. "And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain. If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles" (Zechariah 14:16-19).

Knowing these facts, what should you do? Can you simply shrug off what you know?

If you are interested in receiving more information about the Spiritual implications of these commanded days, please write for our free booklet, "God's Holy Days." □

Pssst! Young Women... Prepare to Rule!

By Julia H. Laughland

Are you prepared to rule in the Kingdom of God? Have you helped to prepare others by your example?

The Bible tells us that our role in the Kingdom is that of a Ruler (1 Peter 2:9). But how does one prepare oneself for that?

The most important step in preparing for any role is understanding the role. What does it mean to be prepared for the Kingdom, and what helps in that preparation?

First, you must know in your heart that you are striving to attain the Kingdom. Preparation is the act of making ready something or someone for a special purpose.

Since preparation is an act, it follows that there must be action. You cannot simply attend church services or read your Bible regularly and expect to be carried into the Kingdom by passive means. You must live what you learn in services and you must practice the precepts presented in the Bible.

How often have you heard the terms “book smart” and “street smart”? All the knowledge in the world is useless unless one knows how to apply it. Book smart is having the knowledge;

it is knowing your Bible. We have all known those who can quote the Bible “chapter and verse.” We have seen many of those same people conduct their lives contrary to the ways which they are so fond of quoting to others. You know them. They are the ones who say, “Do as I say,



not as I do.” They make excuses for their own lack of action. Some genuinely believe that it is enough to know the right way to act even if they do not always live up to their knowledge. Their rallying cry is “yeah, but...!” The example of conduct that they present to those around them is one of hypocrisy. Their example is a pretense of virtue and lip service to good intentions.

What good are good intentions? So often, we know what we should do, and we intend to follow through with our actions;

however, our carnal nature gets the better of us, and we do nothing. We opt for inaction when action would be a better route for us in setting an example for others who might see what we do.

Doing nothing does not provide any kind of works. The Bible states plainly that we will be judged according to our works (1 Peter 1:17). Work denotes actions. Intention is a concept in the mind directed toward an objective.

We can observe what a person does and how she acts—her works. We cannot observe what goes on in her mind. We cannot know what any other person intends. We can know them only by the outward actions of what is in the mind.

The mind is the repository of what we see and hear. Without our ability to extrapolate what we learn through our senses, we would never be able use what we learn and come to know.

We are bombarded daily with images that are contrary to what we know to be good and right. We have learned that we must discard those things that take us away from our faith—those things that confuse the role for

which we know we have to prepare. It is our responsibility to others who see us to conduct ourselves in a way that is pleasing to God and enhances God's Holy Spirit working in us (Acts 5:32).

We have to take our knowledge of the Bible—our “book smarts”—and translate it into the “street smarts” it takes to conduct ourselves in a God-like manner.

Have you ever heard someone make the comment, “Look at (insert your friend's name here). She's so sweet. Her parents must be so proud of her” and wondered what was meant by the remark? Have you ever looked at an acquaintance of yours and wondered why everyone seems to like her? Have you ever looked at someone you know and wondered why she always seems so mean to those around her?

If you answered “Yes” to any of the above questions, you can look beyond a person's actions

to the motivation for those actions. Why do others perceive your friend as sweet? Why is one person well-liked and another reviled as mean? What is it about their conduct that is remarkable?

The answer lies in their ability to apply their “book smarts” to



their “street smarts.” The person whose reputation is of being mean does not practice the kind and gentle ways of a truly converted person. There is nothing God-like in a mean person. Their enmity is an anathema to our responsibility to fulfill our roles as

future Rulers in the Kingdom of God.

Although you might not yet have been baptized and given your life to God, it is important to always live your life toward that future. The proper role of a converted, adult female is to conduct herself blamelessly (Proverbs 31:25) and to set herself as an example to the young women as they come into the Truth of God. Women have a sacred trust given to them in the Bible (Titus 2:3-5). They are caregivers and, as such, are in a unique position to teach others by example to prepare them for their own roles in the Kingdom as Rulers.

The next time you wonder about what you can do to prepare yourself and others for that soon-coming Kingdom, remember, the example you set in your behavior and actions toward others is your finest execution of your job of preparing to be a Ruler. □

The booklets below contain more information on related subjects covered in this issue, and are offered FREE by the Sabbath-keeping churches of God. Please check the ones you desire and mail to the address below:

- “**God's Holy Days**” Reveal His plan of salvation.
- “**Kingdom of God! . . . What Does That Mean to You?**” - Is it the CHURCH? Is it something “set up in the hearts of men?” Is it “the Good within you?” Is it “The millennium?”
- “**Why Were You BORN?**” - Do you really know why you were born? Do you realize God has a purpose being worked out?

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The United States & Britain in Prophecy

Chapter 46 The Mysterious Breach

By Herbert W. Armstrong

We continue this month with the fourth installment of this eye-opening and important booklet, as it was first published in 1945.

Where did Jeremiah go with Baruch his secretary and one or more of the royal daughters of the king? History stops short at this point. Enlightened students of Bible history have long known that the Ten Tribes—called by the name “house of ISRAEL”—have been lost in identity and historic knowledge, and exist today among the Gentile nations, unrecognized. Their identity and location God has hidden from the world.

Yet, in this end time, when knowledge is to increase, when the “wise” are to UNDERSTAND (Dan. 12:4, 10), we shall find the secret revealed through PROPHECY which could not be understood until now.

But first, we must now consider a mysterious “breach” that occurred in the days of Judah, son of Jacob.

Judah was the father of twin sons. The firstborn was royal seed, for through him the SCEPTRE promise was to be carried down. It seems the midwife knew twins were about to be born. It is recorded that just before birth, one of the twins “put out his hand: and the midwife took and bound upon his hand a scarlet thread, saying, This came out first.” But the child drew back his hand, and the other was actually born first. The midwife exclaimed, “How hast thou broken forth? This breach be upon thee (margin, wherefore hast thou

made this breach against thee?): therefore his name was called “Pharez,” meaning, “breach.” The other twin was named Zarah (Gen. 28:27-30).

WHY should this strange occurrence be recorded in the Bible history unless this breach was to be *healed* between the sons or their descendants at some future time? Yet it never occurred in their lifetime.

Zarah, of the scarlet thread, had five sons (I Chron. 2:6). Did a descendant of Zarah finally get the throne, in a manner healing the breach? David, Zedekiah, Christ—all were of the PHAREZ branch—none of Zarah.

Now consider: 1) the *fact* of the

breach means the transfer of the scepter from the Pharez to the Zarah line. 2) Such transfer never occurred before King Zedekiah of Judah, who was descended (from Pharez. 3) Therefore it had to occur *after* Zedekiah's death. 4) Since David's line (Pharez) is to *remain* on the throne through all generations FOREVER, it could only occur at an OVERTURN of the throne by a marriage between a Pharez heir to the throne and one of the Zarah line, thus healing the breach.

The Three Overturns

History shows the descendants of Zarah became wanderers, journeying to the north within the confines of the Scythian nations, their descendants later migrating to Ireland in the days of King David.

But meanwhile, the Pharez-David-Zedekiah line possessed the scepter—was HIGH—exalted. The Zarah line, feeling it rightfully should possess the scepter, and some day would, was low, abased—so far as royal power was concerned.

Now consider a much misunderstood passage of prophecy: If you will begin reading at the 18th verse of the 21st chapter of Ezekiel, you will see plainly that the Eternal Is here speaking of the captivity of Judah by the king of Babylon. And, beginning with the 25th verse, He says: "And thou, profane wicked prince of Israel (Zedekiah), whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end, thus saith the Lord God; remove the diadem, and take off the crown (as did happen, through the *first* half of Jeremiah's commission): this (the crown) shall not be

the same: *exalt* him that is *low*, and *abase* him that is *high*. I will overturn, overturn, overturn it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him" (verses 25-27).

Let us understand that clearly.



"Remove the diadem, and take off the crown." King Zedekiah, of David's dynasty, had the brown. This says it is to be removed. IT WAS REMOVED. He died in Babylon; his sons and all the nobles of Judah were killed.

"This shall not be the same." The diadem is not to cease, but a change is to take place—the throne is to be overturned—another is to wear

*God will not break His
unalterable promise made
to David! Through every
generation David shall
have a descendant
wearing that crown!*

the crown. God's *promise* to David is not to go by default!

"Exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high." Who is "high"? King Zedekiah of Judah. Now he is to be abased. He is to lose that crown. Judah has been "high," while Israel has been "low"—these many years without a king (Hos. 3:4). The Pharez line has

been "high"; the Zarah line "low."

"I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is." What was to be overturned? The diadem, and the throne. Not once—it is to be OVERTURNED *three times*. Overturned by abasing Zedekiah, the house of Judah, the Pharez line, and exalting, now, the house of Israel, and one of the Zarah line! The first of the three overturns was performed as the first half of Jeremiah's commission.

"And it shall be no more." Does this mean the throne—the crown—is to cease to exist? Not at all! How could it be overturned two more times—that is, TRANSFERRED from one to another, if it ceased to exist? How, after these three transfers of the crown, could it be given to Him—Christ—whose right it is, at His second coming, if it ceased altogether to exist? How could he, who was "low" now be exalted by the crown, if that crown was to be

no more? No, the meaning is: "it shall be no more overturned until the second coming of Christ"! And then it shall be given to Him!

God will not break His unalterable promise made to David! Through every generation David shall have a descendant wearing that crown! The *second* half of Jeremiah's commission must now be performed. That throne must be transplanted, and again BUILT. The crown must be overturned—*transferred* to another! But WHERE? To WHOM?

A "Riddle" and a "Parable" Tells!

The strange truth of the PLANTING and the REBUILDING of David's

throne is revealed in a “riddle and a parable,” couched in symbolic language never understood until this latter day. Yet it stands today so clearly explained a little child could understand!

It fills the 17th chapter of Ezekiel’s prophecy. The whole chapter should be carefully read. Notice, first, this prophetic message is addressed, NOT to Judah, the Jewish Nation, but to the house of ISRAEL. It is a message to give light to the lost ten-tribed house of ISRAEL in these latter days!

First, Ezekiel is told to speak a riddle, and then a parable. The riddle is found in verses 3 to 10. Then, beginning in verse 11, the Eternal explains its meaning. “Say now to the rebellious house (God says, the “rebellious house” being ten-tribed ISRAEL (Ezek. 12:9), to whom Ezekiel is set a prophet (Ezek. 2:3; 3:1, etc.).

Know ye not what these things mean? Tell them, and then the riddle is clearly explained.

A great eagle came to Lebanon and took the highest branch of the cedar. This is explained to represent King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon who came to Jerusalem and took captive the king of Judah. The cropping off of the cedar’s young twigs and carrying them to a land of traffic is explained to picture the captivity of the king’s sons. “He took also of the seed of the land” means Nebuchadnezzar took also of the people, and the mighty of the land of Judah. He “set it as a willow tree. And it grew, and became a spreading vine of low stature” means the Jewish Nation was given a covenant whereby, although they were ruled over by the Chaldeans, they might

live in peace and grown. The other “great eagle” is explained to represent Pharaoh of Egypt.

Thus, the riddle covers the *first*

David’s throne now is to be planted in Israel, after being thrown down from Judah!

half of Jeremiah’s commission. Now notice what is revealed concerning the *second* part—the PLANTING of David’s throne! It comes in the parable, verses 22 to 24. “Thus saith the Lord God; I will also take of the highest branch of the high cedar.” From God’s own explanation we have learned that the cedar tree represents the nation of Judah; its highest branch is Judah’s king. The riddle told us Nebuchadnezzar took the highest branch—the king. The parable now tells us *God—not* Nebuchadnezzar, but God—will take of the highest branch. Not *the* branch, but OF the branch of Zedekiah’s children. But Nebuchadnezzar took, and killed, all his SONS.

God, through his prophet



Jeremiah, is now going to take OF this highest branch and “SET IT” (verse 22). “I will crop off from the top of his young twigs a *tender one*, and will plant it upon a high mountain and eminent,” continues the

Almighty! Ah! “A tender young twig”! The twigs of this highest branch represent the children of King Zedekiah! Certainly a tender young twig, then, represents a DAUGHTER! “...and will PLANT it.” Could symbolic language say plainer this young Jewish princess is to become the royal seed for the PLANTING again of David’s throne? Where? “... upon a high mountain and eminent,” says the Eternal! A “mountain” in symbol always represents a NATION.

But Which Nation?

“In the mountain of the height of ISRAEL will I plant it,” answers the Eternal! David’s throne now is to be planted in ISRAEL, after being thrown down from JUDAH! Could language be PLAINER? “...and it (the tender young twig—the king’s daughter) shall bring forth boughs, and bear fruit, and be a goodly cedar.”

Did David’s throne cease with Zedekiah of Judah? Did God forget His covenant? NO! Compare this language with the passage in Isaiah 37:31-32: “The remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall again take root downward (be planted), and BEAR FRUIT UPWARD.” It was PLANTED in ISRAEL, who removed from Judah! After this Hebrew princess is “planted” on the throne, now in ISRAEL, lost from view—that throne is to BEAR FRUIT. She is to marry, have children, and her sons are to continue David’s dynasty!

“... and under it shall dwell all fowl of every wing; in the shadow of the branches thereof shall they dwell” (Ezek. 17:23). “Lost” Israel, now having acquired the throne

and become again a self-ruling nation, shall, in time, spread around the earth gaining dominance and power. They shall inherit the unconditional promises of the BIRTHRIGHT, according to God's covenant with Abraham!

"And all the trees of the field . . ." (v. 24). A "tree" in this riddle and parable is likened to a nation. In other words, "all the nations of the earth" ". . . shall know that I the Lord have brought down the high tree." Judah, the high tree, having the throne 130 years after Israel had been taken captive, now is brought down to the low stature of slavery. "...have exalted the low tree." For 130 years Israel had been a "low tree." Now Israel is exalted, becomes again a thriving nation with a Davidic king. "...have dried up the green tree (JUDAH) and have made the dry tree (ISRAEL) to flourish."

Compare that language with

Ezekiel 21:26: "Remove the diadem, and take off the crown...exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. I will overturn..." etc. It is speaking of transferring the throne from Judah to Israel.

Israel had already been indepen-

Israel in Ireland already had a kingly line onto which Zedekiah's daughter was grafted.

dent in Ireland for four centuries. Israel in Ireland already had a kingly line onto which Zedekiah's daughter was grafted. The Irish Israelites were an ancient colony and had *not* gone into Assyrian captivity.

ISRAEL, headed by the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, who possessed the BIRTHRIGHT, now would flourish, become prosperous in due time. "I the Lord have spoken and have done it" (Ezek. 17:24). Yes, that BIRTHRIGHT is in ISRAEL.

Though *lost* though supposed to be a Gentile nation, they are the people who were to grow into the promised multitude—the great nation and the company of nations, possessing the gates of their enemy nations, becoming a colonizing people spreading around the world, being blessed with national resources and wealth. And, when they become thus powerful and nationally dominant, remember, David's throne will be found transplanted among them!

But WHERE did Jeremiah, with his royal seed for the transplanting, go to find the lost house of Israel? WHERE are they today? How was the "breach" healed, and how did a son of Zarah ascend to the throne? Can we tell?

We CAN! The exact, precise location is revealed in the Bible prophecy! We can pick up Jeremiah's trail in actual history, besides! □

Family (Cont. from page 3)

others. That rule is a mutual respect for others (Heb. 12:9-11). That is called love.

That fear and respect for the father in the family unit and for the Father of us all is the missing dimension in understanding how to live the right way and how to have happiness dominate the family. That is what Abraham taught his children. That is a basic truth of the family; it is what we should be teaching to our children. It is the rules of how to live given to us by the Spiritual Father—the only one who can give us eternal life.

As I wrote in the beginning of this article, the world lives a different way of life than what God

commands in His Word. God tells us that His way is the best way to live to produce happiness and joy for all eternity. Then it is up to us to make our choice and decide whether to live His way or the way of this world. How we choose will determine the fruits that we reap when we live that way.

God commands all to choose the course of their lives. Then we must follow through with our choice. The path that we choose will reap a harvest either to the abundant life or to the life of despair, divorce, and misery for us and our children. We cannot, as so many do today, blame others. We are the ones who make the choice!

The life that God wants for us is

a life that allows us to practice for the coming Kingdom, where we will be examples for the generation we now live in. God calls a small group out of this world to enjoy life, not bear life in a society that has no understanding of why they were born.

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The Plain Truth About **FAITH**

By Ronald W. Laughland

A brief look at some often-overlooked scriptures about this important topic

In our society today, we hear “Christians” talking about faith, the requirement to have faith and proclaiming they have faith.

But what is faith, and why does a Christian need it? How do you get faith, and what are the conditions to receive faith?

This is a vast subject that would require many articles to cover. This short article is intended to introduce you to just a few amazing scriptures that may have been overlooked by some about this important subject.

One of the reasons we overlook important facts in the Bible is that scriptures become so familiar that we read right over the passage, assuming we already know what we need to know about a subject.

In the Bible we see a claim made about two depths of understanding of the word of God. One is a depth that any reader with a rudimentary ability to read can understand. The Bible is read just like any other book, and an individual can glean tidbits of what God is saying.

But there is another depth of understanding that only comes by the

Spiritual understanding that God provides. That second level of understanding is referred to in I Cor. 2:10: “But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the *deep things* of God.”

In understanding faith, the first deep revelation is that one does not work up true faith; it is a gift from God through His Holy Spirit. As Eph. 2:8 says, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God” (see also I Cor. 12:9).

In some of the modern translations, the term, “faith *of* God” has been changed into the “faith *in* God.” This mistranslation causes some to believe one must “work up” faith rather than believe the Bible’s plain teaching about this gift.

But receiving that faith does take an action on behalf of the receiver. That action is to repent and believe the Gospel (see Mark 1:15). Once you have been given the gift of faith, you must activate it in your life by the prescribed method that God teaches.

Here is where we enter into “the

deep things of God.” You must have a deep belief that He is alive and involved in your life. Hebrews 11:6 states, “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

Notice you must believe “He is.” He exists; He is alive; He was; He is; and He will always be. He is the Eternal God of the Universe.

Additionally, you must believe He will reward those “who diligently seek Him” throughout their Christian lives. This means that Christians must be studying about Him and growing to be more like Him. We must have Him always in the forefront of our minds—recognizing the need for God in our lives so that we will also live into eternity. When we do that, we will grow in faith and know that we are worshipping the true God of the Universe.

These are the deep things of the faith of God that He wants us to know. Then we will absolutely know that we, indeed, have the faith—the true faith of God. □

Coming Next Issue...



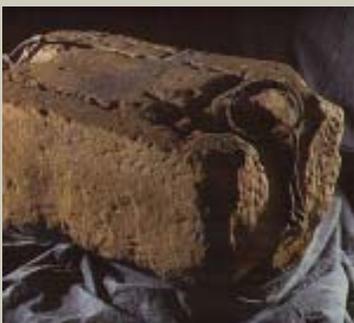
Does God Exist?

...Many profess to believe in God. But do you really KNOW He is there...and understand His importance in your life?



True Leadership...

...Why mankind's attempts to rule and govern have never worked... and why they never will!



The Stone of Scone...

...Where did it come from? Why do some refer to it as the 'Stone of Destiny'? Is it significant to us?



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Our new Online Interactive Bible Studies are held at 7:00 pm CST every other Wednesday. Check our online calendar at www.wwcg.org/cgi-bin/calendar.pl for an updated schedule.